

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 03872 281159Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INR-10 SP-02 EB-08 SS-15
ACDA-12 NEA-10 /075 W
-----061808 281206Z /23
P 281156Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5166
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
DPDR EUROPE LINDSEY AS GER PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 03872

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, IS, BE
SUBJECT: MAP SALES TO ISRAEL: FMS CASE NO DPDR-EBR

REF: A) DLA/DPDR EUR LINDSEY MSG DTG 151435Z FEB 78
B) SECDEF/ASD/ISA MSG DTG 251657Z FEB 78

1. REF B REFERS TO SECSTATE MSG DTG 120101Z SEPT 1970
(NUMBER UNSPECIFIED) AS CURRENT GUIDANCE REGARDING
EMBASSY ROLE IN HANDLING DPDR FMS SHIPMENTS PASSING
THROUGH BELGIUM. WE DO NOT HAVE A COPY OF THAT
MESSAGE. HOWEVER, THE MOST RECENT REITERATION OF THE
SYSTEM THAT WE WORKED OUT WITH THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT
TO HANDLE THE SALE OF EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES TO
ISRAEL WAS TRANSMITTED IN 75 BRUSSELS 2845
(DTG 011704 APRIL 75) TO WHICH STATE REPLIED THAT OUR
UNDERSTANDING OF THE SYSTEM GOVERNING SUCH SALES WAS
CORRECT (75 STATE 96104, DTG 251829Z APRIL 75). WE
HAD PREVIOUSLY STRESSED THE NEED TO FOLLOW THE SYSTEM
ESTABLISHED (74 BRUSSELS 10075, DTG 201505 DEC 74) BE-
CAUSE OF THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT'S EXPRESSED SENSITIVITIES
OVER THIS TYPE OF SHIPMENT THROUGH BELGIAN TERRITORY.

2. SINCE THE LAST SHIPMENT OF EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES
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TO ISRAEL THROUGH BELGIUM, A NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT
HAS BEEN FORMED IN BELGIUM. THIS HAS RESULTED IN A
COMPLETELY NEW GROUP OF BELGIAN OFFICIALS WITH WHOM
WE WILL HAVE TO DEAL ON THE QUESTION OF SUCH SHIPMENTS.
WE MUST DO SO IN THE FACE OF A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF
INCREASED SENSITIVITY ON THE PART OF THE BELGIANS
OVER U.S.-BELGIAN MILITARY RELATIONS (BRUSSELS 2603, DTG

101659Z FEB 78). AS THE SYSTEM FOR HANDLING SUCH SHIP-
MENTS WAS WORKED OUT WITH THE FULL COOPERATION OF THE
BELGIAN AUTHORITIES, WE CANNOT MODIFY IT UNILATERALLY
WITHOUT RUNNING THE SERIOUS RISK THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERN-
MENT WOULD PROHIBIT ENTIRELY TRANSHIPMENT THROUGH BELGIUM
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OF DEFENSE ITEMS DESTINED FOR ISRAEL.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WE REQUEST (A) RECONFIRMATION THAT
THE SYSTEM FOR HANDLING THE SALE AND TRANSHIPMENT
THROUGH BELGIUM OF EXCESS U.S. DEFENSE ARTICLES TO ISRAEL
HAS NOT BEEN CHANGED; (B) CONFIRMATION THAT THE SPECIFIC
SALE/TRANSHIPMENT OF 10,000 30 CAL CARBINES (FMS CASE
NO. DPDR-EBR) AT ISSUE HAS NOT ESCAPED USG CONTROL AND
GONE AROUND THE SYSTEM WORKED OUT WITH THE BELGIAN
GOVERNMENT; AND (C) THAT ALL COMMUNICATIONS ON THIS
SUBJECT BE CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL. CHAMBERS

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